

Good Morning, my name is Richard Wildman, I am currently the Acting Police Chief for the town of Middlebury and I have been in law enforcement since January of 1979. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the Public Safety and Security Committee this morning on proposed bill 299.

With many cuts in law enforcement over the past few years, many agencies have to do with less. Mutual Aid is relied on more and more for getting additional resources and manpower to deal with emergency situations. Early notification and good communications are a must in these times.

Over the past several years police agencies in Connecticut have made improvements to their radio communications however these improvements came with down falls. A simple \$100.00 scanner to monitor what is going on in your neighboring community or the highway that runs through your community is a thing of the past due to digital encryption. Many agencies rely on a single radio frequency commonly referred to as Hot Lines. These designated hot line radios are usually set up by county to pass information onto the State Police or their neighboring communities within that county.

Since 9-11 the State of Connecticut through grants and other funding developed the Connecticut State Police Emergency Radio Network commonly referred to as CSPERN. All Police Departments including the State Police were given radio equipment to communicate on this frequency.

Proposed Bill 299 would require early notification to all law enforcement agencies throughout Connecticut by the Connecticut Message Center via a tone alert sent out on CSPERN as soon as they learn of some type of active shooter incident or other dangerous situation affecting law enforcement and public safety. The alert would contain the necessary information to law enforcement so that a proper response can be made to the emergency. Now with this information the Chiefs of Police can make decisions to send resources, take measures to safe guard their respective communities, and to harden targets in their community such as schools or heavily populated areas.

Attachments:

1- Portable CSPERN Radio

2- Base Radio 3- Car Radio

On 12/14/2012 the tragedy in Newtown was occurring about ten miles from the town of Middlebury. Newtown is located in Fairfield County while Middlebury is located in New Haven County, two separate hotline systems. It wasn't until 45 minutes after the fact that I was notified by a friend, also in law enforcement, about this incident. Many other law enforcement agencies only learned about the incident by way of the media. **This is totally unacceptable.** When I called my regional school district to go into lock down I found out that lockdown was being implemented already thanks to the media.

I know that the legislature is hard at work on budgetary issues, so I bring good news; this radio system already exists and it won't cost a dime to implement a notification system like this.

Many law enforcement agencies over the years have been given additional grants to add CSPERN radios to their patrol cars and add portable radios to their inventories.

I was approached by several chiefs recently who advised me that back in 2010 most of the Chiefs were sent important alerts to their iPhones by an Alert system. As far as I know this notification system no longer exists, however most agreed that the Connecticut Message Center was responsible for these alerts.

With this necessary CSPERN alert system in place, it would be up to each Chief of Police to address the policies for the monitoring of the CSPERN frequency. In addition they will have the comfort in knowing that there is a two way communication system in place to alert their departments to any emergency situation that is going on anywhere in the state.

With this information, Police Chiefs can make the necessary adjustments quickly on public safety in their own communities and have one frequency they can rely on to communicate.

Thank you very much for your time and attention to this matter!

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